(b) and (c) The following stretches in Kerala are included in National Highways Development Project (NHDP) Phase-IIIA and Phase-IIIB.

NHDP Phase-IIIA

NH No.	Stretch under NHDP Phase-IIIA	Length (Km.)
47	Thiruvananthapuram-Kerala/Tamil Nadu Border	43
47	Cherthalai-Thiruvananthapuram	187
	TOTAL:	230

NHDP Phase-IIIB

NH No.	Stretch under NHDP Phase-IIIB	Length (Km.)
17	Karnataka/Kerala Border-Khozikode-Eddapally	451

In addition, under Cochin Port Connectivity Project Km. 348/382 to Km. 358/750 of NH-47 is being four laned.

Construction of alternate NH-31 in Sikkim

1141. SHRI O.T. LEPCHA: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received a proposal from the State of Sikkim for construction of alternative National Highway to National Highway 31;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the action taken by Government so far in this regard; and

(d) by when the above proposal is likely to be cleared/implemented by Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIAPPA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Presumably, Hon'ble Member is referring to National Highway No. 31A. A proposal to construct new road from Melli to Rangpo bypassing the corresponding section of NH-31A has been received from Government of Sikkim. There is also a demand to construct entirely new highway from Nathula to Siliguri as an alternative of NH-31A. However, this demand has not been accepted due to resource constraints.

(c) Construction of Melli-Rangpo road is included in Phase B of Special Accelerated Road Development Programme-North East (SARDP-NE), which has since been approved by the Government for preparation on Detailed Project Reports.

(d) Since investment decision about all the projects included under Phase-B of SARDP-NE including Melli-Rangpo road is yet to be taken by the Government, it is too early to indicate as to when the project will be cleared/implemented.

Streamline of tollgate problems

1142. SHRI SITARAM YECHURY: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that due to heavy tollgate fees some of the sectors of the newly constructed National Highways are not in operation to their full capacity;

(b) whether Government are aware of the passers by being harassed by the tollgate contractors, and

(c) whether Government have any plans to streamline the tollgate related problems in the newly constructed National Highway?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIAPPA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Some instances of harassment of road users by some fee collecting agencies have come to notice. Immediate action is taken, whenever any complaint is received in the matter.

(c) To streamline various toll related problems, existing toll policy is under reivew by a sub-committee of Committee of Secretaries.

Extension of Ahmedabad-Vadodara Expressway

1143. PROF. ALKA BALRAM KSHATRIYA: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that extension of Ahmedabad-Vadodara Expressway upto Mumbai is proposed to be undertaken under the National Highway Development Programme;

(b) if so, any time bound programme has been framed for the completion of the project; and